

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. (Cancelled).
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) A mail piece tracking system including:
- 2 A. one or more servers that perform the operations of:
- 3 i. acquiring information from (1) one or more mail piece sources, (2)
- 4 postal services or (3) delivery companies, including in such information, one or more user
- 5 identifiers, and from said information
- 6 ii. creating linked information for each mail piece, being a physical mail
- 7 piece, said linked information containing at least one of:
- 8 (1) information about the mail piece, (2) delivery status information, (3)
- 9 address and delivery particulars, (4) a digital copy of the mail piece, (5) a
- 10 summary of the mail piece, and (6) an excerpt from the mail piece;
- 11 iii. associating said linked information for each mail piece with
- 12 one or more respective user identifiers, thereby providing a user being a sender or recipient
- 13 of a mail piece, by way of its respective user identifier, with the capability to track and trace
- 14 mail pieces sent to or from one or more addresses, said linked information being accessible to
- 15 a user on a website;
- 16 iv. receiving, at said server, one or more electronic messages from
- 17 senders of respective mail pieces and linking such messages to said delivery status
- 18 information relating to said mail pieces as an attachment to said linked information, said
- 19 attachment consisting of the one or more messages from the senders of the mail pieces and is
- 20 posted with said linked information on said website;
- 21 v. providing in said linked information listings of said delivery status
- 22 information for the mail pieces directed to or sent from respective users that are associated
- 23 with the user identifiers, said listings accessible to the user on said web site;
- 24 vi. providing a table displayable on said web site that is accessible by a
- 25 user, setting out a substantially complete record of a transaction from start to finish, including
- 26 (1) the date of shipment of an ordered article, (2) the date of delivery of an ordered article to

the user, and (3) the return delivery of the article to the company, (4) the dates of the debiting or crediting of payment for the ordered article with the user's credit or debit card; and

vii providing transaction information from billing companies that bill the user regularly for supplying goods or services, and supplying the user with a confirmation of receipt of a payment by the billing company; and

B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access linked information.

3. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Withdrawn) Computer executable instructions embodied in a non-transitory computer readable medium, comprising instructions causing the computer to perform:

A. associating respective users, being senders or recipients of a mail piece with user identifiers;

B. acquiring information from (1) one or more mail piece sources, (2) postal services or (3) delivery companies, including in such information, one or more user identifiers, regarding a mail piece;

C. creating linked information for each mail piece, being a physical mail piece, said linked information associating a mail piece with a respective user identifier and providing a user with such information so as to allow the user to track and trace mail pieces sent to or from one or more addresses;

D. receiving said linked information from one or more mail piece delivery companies and associating said linked information with respective user identifiers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are directed ;

E. receiving information concerning respective mail pieces from senders of the respective mail pieces;

F. generating a user's personal web page, and displaying said linked information on the user's personal web page; and

19 G. providing on said user's personal web page a graphical user interface adapted
20 to:

21 i. notify the respective users of the delivery status of the respective mail
22 pieces, the graphical user interface being configured to:

23 ii. provide mail piece delivery status information, and one or more web
24 pages using which the user may pay bills and store and maintain: (1) billing information, (2)
25 status information about whether a credit or debit card transaction is completed, and (3)
26 information concerning confirmation of payment receipt that is linked to the user identifier
27 that associated with the respective user, and

28 iii. provide to the respective user the information concerning the contents
29 of the respective mail pieces.

1 22. (Cancelled)

1 23. (Withdrawn) The computer executable instructions as defined in Claim 21 wherein

2 H. said graphical user interface is further configured to:

3 provide links, for the user, to web pages of respective mail piece delivery companies
4 and respective senders of said mail pieces allowing the user to perform at least one of:
5 electronically sending or receiving a message, receiving or paying a bill, and verifying
6 information based upon a digital signature.

1 24. (Withdrawn) The computer executable instructions of claim 21 in which one or
2 more messages from one or more of the mail delivery companies are displayed on a graphic
3 user interface.

1 25. – 47. (Cancelled)

1 48. (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracing and tracking system comprising:

2 one or more servers associated with multiple package delivery systems coupled to
3 a network, said one or more servers interfacing with a database storing user identifiers,
4 and said one or more servers associating a user identifier with linked information about
5 packages that are being sent to or from said user of the system, using one of said package
6 delivery systems, said linked information being associated with one or more user
7 identifiers, the server being further configured to store information provided by said user
8 during a postal transaction session as a plurality of queued or stacked messages, the
9 server further maintaining an index, sorted by user identifier attribute, allowing messages
10 associated with a given user to be accessed; and

11 a plurality of computer nodes connected by said network to one or more of said
12 servers, said nodes running software executables that communicate directly with the
13 server, said nodes also having access to web browsers allowing said user to login in and
14 inspect linked information about each package that has been assigned to its user identifier
15 providing said user with the capability to track and trace mail pieces sent to or from one
16 or more addresses, at one session, or said user may interrupt a session and continue the
17 session at a later time.

1 49. (Withdrawn) The mail piece tracing and tracking system as defined in Claim 48
2 further comprising:

3 said node, in reconstructing a session, uses associated queued messages to
4 present to said user one or more screens, templates and/or wizards that allow the session
5 to be continued from a point at which the user last communicated with the server.

1 50. (Withdrawn) The mail piece tracing and tracking system as defined in Claim 48
2 further comprising said node maintaining an up-to-date message queue or store for the
3 session that is associated with the assigned user identifier such that the session may be
4 readily transferred to a different terminal such that said user can continue or complete the
5 session at said different terminal.

1 51. (Previously Presented) The mail piece tracking system as defined in Claim 2

- 2 wherein said billing companies include utility companies, banks, magazine subscriptions
- 3 and shops.